



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Arkansas*

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**U.S. ATTORNEY BUD CUMMINS PARTNERS WITH
ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY (ASU)
FOR NATIONAL METHAMPHETAMINE AWARENESS DAY
Educates Students on Dangers of Meth, Progress
and Challenges Faced in Fight of Meth**

Little Rock - Members of the United States Attorney's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration made a presentation today to Arkansas State University students on the dangers of methamphetamine. They stressed the progress being made in the fight against methamphetamine and the challenges that remain. The presentation was followed by a press conference in conjunction with National Methamphetamine Awareness Day.

U.S. Attorney Bud Cummins announced that the U.S. Attorney's Office partnered with Arkansas State University for National Methamphetamine Awareness Day in order to generate awareness about the damaging effects of meth abuse on individuals, families and American communities. Education and public outreach are at the heart of the national drug control strategy, and National Methamphetamine Awareness Day plays an important role in highlighting the nationwide efforts to increase awareness and decrease demand of this highly addictive and dangerous drug.

"Methamphetamine abuse shatters families and threatens our communities," stated Cummins. On National Methamphetamine Awareness Day, we underscore the dangers of methamphetamine and reaffirm our collective responsibility to combat all forms of drug abuse. We have made great strides in combating meth production and use in the United States, but we still face the challenge posed by the importation of meth produced in Mexico."

Methamphetamine is a powerfully addictive drug that dramatically affects users' minds and bodies. Chronic use can lead to violent behavior, paranoia, and an inability to cope with the ordinary demands of life. Methamphetamine abusers can transform homes into places of danger and despair by neglecting or endangering the lives of their children, spouses, and other loved

ones. Additionally, methamphetamine production exposes anyone near the process to toxic chemicals and the risk of explosion.

“Law enforcement regularly makes impressive methamphetamine arrests and obtains sentences as long as a lifetime for violators,” stated Cummins. “In spite of those successes, the supply continues to be available to the streets. The best tool we have to protect the community is education. After hearing and seeing the presentation, no sane person would ever try meth.”

National Methamphetamine Awareness Day is a coordinated effort not only to reach potential meth users with a message of prevention, but also to educate current users about the programs available to them.

As part of our ongoing effort to combat meth use, the Department of Justice created a model methamphetamine educational presentation that is available to the public to be used by law enforcement, community groups and local leaders in addressing meth use in their communities. The educational presentation is posted on the Department’s new meth Awareness Web site: <http://www.usdoj.gov/methawareness>.

For more information about National Methamphetamine Awareness Day and how to get involved in your community, contact the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Arkansas at 501 340-2673 or visit <http://www.usdoj.gov/methawareness>.

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